

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) System for protecting ~~the~~a loading space of vehicles, ~~in particular passenger cars,~~ having sensors for sensing loaded material in the loading space, ~~means~~sensing devices for sensing ~~the~~a state of protective devices in the loading space and ~~means~~a control unit for generating a loading space state signal as a function of the sensing of loaded material and the sensing of the state of the protective devices,

wherein at least one said protective device is electrically operable and controllable to be automatically moved to a predefined position and wherein, when the at least one protective device does not reach the predefined position, a position state signal is generated that indicates an unsafe loading space state.

2. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the sensors~~are~~ provided for sensing loaded material ~~in terms of its~~sense position, size and/or weight of the loaded material.

3. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the sensors for sensing loaded material ~~are~~comprise components of a vehicle protection system.

4. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~means~~sensing devices for sensing the ~~state~~states of the protective devices ~~have~~include one said sensing device having a transmitter or

receiver which is arranged on a mobile one of said protective ~~device~~devices, and a receiver or transmitter which is arranged on the vehicle.

5. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the protective devices are automatically placed in a~~the~~ predefined position as a function of the loading space state signal.

6. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the protective ~~devices~~aredevice is moved automatically into a~~the~~ predefined position as a function of the loading space state signal and the~~a~~ current velocity and/or driving situation of the vehicle.

7. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 6, wherein one of said protective devices comprises a separating ~~means~~member that is located between the loading space and passenger compartment which is displaced, pretensioned or extended in or counter to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle as a function of the loading space state signal and the current velocity and/or driving situation of the vehicle.

8. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the protective devices in the loading space of the vehicle can be moved into a protective position as a function of the loading space state signal and/or in response to a request signal.

9. (Currently amended) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 8, wherein the request signal is triggered by a user or by sensors which sense at least one environmental ~~conditions such as~~a condition of precipitation ~~and/or quality of the ground, in the surroundings of~~ adjacent the vehicle.

10. (New) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein depending on the position state signal, which indicates the unsafe loading space state, at least another said protective device is automatically moved to a predetermined position.

11. (New) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the protective device comprises an electrically operable loading space cover.

12. (New) System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the protective device comprises an electrically operable separating net.

13. (New) A system for protecting a loading space of a vehicle comprising:

at least one protective device located within the vehicle and movable between at least a first position for protecting one or more loaded articles in the loading space of the vehicle and a second position enabling access to the loaded articles;

at least one protective device sensor for sensing the first or second position of said at least one protective device;

at least one article sensor for sensing a presence of one or more loaded articles in the loading space of the vehicle; and

a control unit for generating a loading space state signal as a function of 1) the sensing of loaded articles, and 2) the sensing of the position of the at least one protective device,

wherein said protective device is automatically moved to the first position in response to the loading space state signal.

14. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one protective device comprises at least one of an electric powered extendable loading space cover movable along a guide rail and an electric powered extendable net.

15. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, including a display for displaying the loading space state signal to inform an operator of the vehicle of an unsafe load article.

16. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, including an electric motor for the automatic moving of the at least one protective device to the first position in response to the loaded space state signal output from said control unit, the protective device in the first position providing a barrier protecting an operator of the vehicle from contact with a loaded article due to a sudden vehicle stop or vehicle accident.

17. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one load detecting sensor comprises sensors for sensing size, location within the loading space, and weight of a loaded article.

18. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, wherein said load detecting sensor provides an output to a vehicle antitheft system.

19. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, wherein the protective

device sensor includes a transmitter or receiver arranged on the movable protective device and a respective corresponding receiver or transmitter arranged on the vehicle.

20. (New) The system for protecting the loading space of a vehicle according to Claim 13, wherein the automatic moving of the protective device in response to the loading space state signal is adjusted by a velocity or driving condition of the vehicle.